

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY EARMARKS \$2.2 MILLION FOR BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY'S THREAT DETECTION FACILITY

BINGHAMTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today announced that he has succeeded in placing a \$2.2 million earmark for Binghamton University into the U.S. Department of Defense's spending bill for Fiscal Year 2004. The funds will go to B.U.'s Advanced Sensor Design and Threat Detection Facility to support the development of better methods for detecting harmful vapors in battlefield settings.

"The researchers at Binghamton University are working on some innovative and important projects, including this one, which has great potential for enhancing the safety of our troops," said Hinchey. "At the local level, this influx of money will have significant economic benefits for the Southern Tier. The university is uniquely situated to effect positive change in the area's economy."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey helps write the thirteen discretionary spending bills that Congress must pass each year. In this capacity he has direct influence on the funding of federal programs that are important to his constituents. He also has a greater opportunity to request specific earmarks for projects in the district.

In September 2002, Hinchey held two meetings in his Washington office with Binghamton University President Lois DeFleur and researchers from the school to discuss the need for federal assistance. He met again with university officials last month. Hinchey, who has often stated his belief that B.U. is key to the region's economic health, enthusiastically agreed to look for ways to provide help.

"We are grateful to Congressman Hinchey for helping us to secure federal support for our advanced sensor research," said DeFleur. "Along with state aid, industrial collaboration and a number of highly competitive research grants, federal support is crucial to the development of our Advanced Sensor Design and Threat Detection Facility. Working with our industrial partners, this has important implications for the development of new technologies, which over time will benefit economic development in the Southern Tier."

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The Advanced Sensor Design and Threat Detection Research Facility will develop airborne agent detection systems that can provide early warnings of the presence of potentially harmful vapors, toxins or biological reagents in battlefield settings. Binghamton University scientists have already developed an "artificial nose" capable of detecting potentially harmful gases and other airborne agents much more effectively than current monitoring systems. Other ongoing research projects include waterborne agent detection systems and a biometric acoustic sensor system for use in advanced military reconnaissance settings.

The Defense Appropriations bill that includes Hinchey's earmark has passed the Appropriations Committee and will be considered this month by the full House of Representatives.